

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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R 281400Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

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INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USUN 401

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL ZURICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4096

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ELAB, SP, XG, SZ

SUBJ: REACTION TO JUNE 23 SPANISH COMMUNIST

GENEVA RALLY

REF: MADRID 3894

BERN 2390

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BEGIN SUMMARY: MAY 23 GENEVA RALLY AT WHICH SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCE) LEADERS SANTIAGO CARRILLO AND "LA PASIONARIA" SPOKE DESPITE SWISS GOVT BAN IN RESPONSE TO STRONG SPANISH GOVT (GOS) DIPLOMATIC PRESSURES, HAS STRAINED HISPANO-SWISS RELATIONS, AROUSED GOS SUSPICIONS RALLY MARKS INITIATION WELL-FINANCED PCE CAMPAIGN INFILTRATE SPANISH ARMY, HAS ELATED PCE OVER RALLY'S SUCCESS, AND CAUSED CONCERN AMONG NON-COMMUNIST OPPOSITION. END SUMMARY

1. MUCH INTEREST AND CONCERN HAS BEEN AROUSED BY GENEVA JUNE 23 RALLY TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH ILO CONFERENCE AND ATTENDED BY 15,000 PERSONS AT WHICH PARIS-BASED PCE CHAIRMAN SANTIAGO CARRILLO AND MOSCOW-BASED PCE PRESIDENT DOLORES IBARRURI (CIVIL WAR'S "LA PASIONARIA") SPOKE. NOTWITHSTANDING SWISS GOVT'S PRIOR BAN. ADDITIONALLY, PRESS HAS GIVEN PROMINENCE TO SWISS GOVT'S JUNE 24 ANNOUNCEMENT PROHIBITING ENTRY OF CARRILLO AND IBARRURI INDEFINITELY INTO SWITZERLAND FOR THEIR DEFIANCE OF THIS PROHIBITION.

2. ACCORDING SWISS EMBASSY OFFICER, SWISS GOVT'S JUNE 18 DECISION BANNING SPEECHES OF CARRILLO AND IBARRURI WAS MADE UNDER STRONG SPANISH DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE, INCLUDING SPANISH GOVT THREAT TO RECALL SPANISH AMBASSADOR IF SWISS GOVT DID NOT PROHIBIT SPEECHES. SAME SOURCE STATED THAT FACT CARRILLO AND IBARRURI DEFIED BAN AND SPOKE ANYWAY HAS ADDED FURTHER STRAINS TO HISPANO-SWISS RELATIONS OVER THIS INCIDENT, ALTHOUGH SWISS GOVT'S SUBSEQUENT INDEFINITE PROHIBITION UPON ENTRY THESE TWO PERSONAGES HAS SOMEWHAT MOLLIFIED GOS' STILL-SIMMERING ANGER. HE ALSO STATED GOS, IN ITS EFFORTS PREVENT SPEECHES, EVEN WENT TO US SEC GEN KURT WALDHEIM AND ASKED FOR UN INTERVENTION ON GROUNDS RALLY WAS TAKING PLACE IN GENEVA DURING ILO CONFERENCE AND WAS SETTING BAD PRECEDENT FOR CLIMATE OF UN CONFERENCES, AND WALDHEIM AS RESULT ALSO SUGGESTED TO SWISS GOVT THAT IT SEEK PREVENT SPEECHES. SOURCE ADDED THAT SWISS GOVT'S ACTIONS OVER THIS EPISODE HAVE ALSO CAUSED IT INTERNAL PROBLEMS WITH SWISS POLITICAL LEFT, AND PROBLEMS OF A FEDERAL NATURE WITH GENEVA CANTON.

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3. ACCORDING LEADING MAGAZINE EDITOR, GOS SENSITIVITY THIS ISSUE WAS DEMONSTRATED JUNE 24 WHEN NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE EDITORS, WARNED THEM TO BE CAREFUL IN THEIR COVERAGE OF GENEVA RALLY, AND SUGGESTED THEY STICK CLOSELY TO FACTUAL COVERAGE BY OFFICIAL SPANISH NEWS SERVICES. ONLY NON-FACTUAL COMMENT APPEARS HAVE BEEN IN PRO-GOVERNMENT "ARRIBA" WHICH POINTED OUT HYPOCRISY OF

COMMUNISTS BEING ALLOWED TO HOLD SUCH A PROPAGANDISTIC RALLY IN GENEVA ON SAME WEEKEND THAT UN GENEVA OFFICE HAD SUDDENLY BANNED SALE OF "GULAG ARCHIPELAGO" AT PALAIS DE NATIONS BOOKSTORE, ALLEGEDLY AS A RESULT OF SOVIET PRESSURES.

4. VARIOUS SOURCES HAVE TOLD EMB LABATT HIGH PERCENTAGE SPANISH COMMUNISTS IN CLANDESTINE LABOR AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS INSIDE SPAIN WENT TO GENEVA FOR RALLY. OTHER SPANISH OPPOSITION GROUPS SUCH AS SOCIALISTS, MADE CLEAR AT OUTSET THEY WOULD HAVE NO PART OF SUCH RALLY AND REPORTEDLY IN END WERE NOT INVITED. BULK OF THOSE ATTENDING WERE REPORTEDLY SPANISH EMIGRANTS AND COMMUNIST EXILES, ALONG WITH SWISS, FRENCH, AND GERMAN COMMUNIST CONTINGENTS. SPANISH NON-COMMUNIST OPPOSITION GROUPS REPORTEDLY SOMEWHAT CONCERNED OVER PCE'S DEMONSTRATED ABILITY TO STAGE SUCH A LARGE AND WELL-PUBLICIZED RALLY IN WESTERN COUNTRY. PCE IS REPORTEDLY ELATED OVER A RALLY'S SUCCESS.

5. SPANISH GENERAL AS WELL AS A HIGH MFA OFFICIAL TOLD EMB POL CSLR GOS CONCERNED THAT RALLY IS PART OF NEWLY LAUNCHED CAMPAIGN BY PCE TO APPEAL TO SPANISH ARMY, IN LIGHT OF PORTUGUESE EXAMPLE, AND THAT THEY BELIEVE PCE AND FOREIGN COMMUNIST FUNDS AND EFFORTS BEING AIMED AT EXPLOITING PRESUMED POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY IN SPAIN IN WAKE OF PORTUGUESE COUP.

6. SPEECHES OF CARRILLO AND "LA PASIONARIA" WERE CERTAINLY SIGNIFICANT FOR THEIR REPEATED REFERENCES TO "PORTUGUESE SPRING" AND FOR THEIR CALLS FOR ENLISTING COOPERATION OF SPANISH ARMY. HOWEVER, NEITHER SPEECH CALLED FOR FORMATION OF A PROVISIONAL SPANISH GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE AT THIS TIME, WHICH HAD BEEN STRONG RUMOR CIRCULATING PRIOR TO RALLY. (THIS HAD BEEN RELATED TO

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OTHER RUMORS, WHICH ALSO PROVED UNFOUNDED, THAT SPANISH PRETENDER, DON JUAN, WAS SIMILARLY PLANNING TO ANNOUNCE ON JUNE 24, HIS NAME DAY, THE FORMATION OF A MOVEMENT OF SPANISH DEMOCRATIC FORCES.) RIVERO

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